

record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted. And back to the bill, Senator Wesely, would you care to explain the bill?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I appreciate all the co-sponsors on LB 741, and although I'm not all that crazy about the committee amendments which deleted a large part of the bill, it does focus the issue on the logo sign-business sign question. Let me tell you where we're at on the issue. This has been around for as long as I have been in here and much before that. In fact, we've got an Attorney General's Opinion back ten years ago in April of '76 which indicated a problem with the concept and that was followed by another AG Opinion in '83. We are working with the Roads Department to find a way to provide for this signing, even though we've had some roadblocks in this area in the past. We think there is a solution to the problem. The bill itself now provides that the signs will be erected and paid for, for that by the actual sign companies, the people that are putting the signs up and not by the state, so the extension of the credit of the state issue wouldn't be a problem. But the additional problem that has been identified in the past by the Attorney General says that the use of right-of-way may constitute extension of the credit of the state, and so we have included in this bill a fee that we are asking to be paid on an annual basis to pay for the right-of-way usage and we think perhaps that may cover the question and, in fact, put us in a situation where we can, in fact, go forward with these signs finally after 10 years of effort. We are going to work with the Attorney General and the Roads Department. There is an additional amendment that the Roads Department has contacted me about that we haven't got ready yet that we'll be putting on on Select File that basically is technical in nature. But we will be submitting this bill, in its amended form and with the amendments that the Roads Department is looking at, to the Attorney General and we will work with them and see if we can't perhaps resolve this issue finally for the State of Nebraska. I think Senator Harris is going to follow and talk about the situation. He is one that has worked long and hard on the issue and I commend his effort to try and find a way to promote tourism in this state. Let me tell you that we are really missing an opportunity when that interstate, which